



December 1997

VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 7 No. 12

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ✓ ✓ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Accuracy & timeliness are critical

How to Complete a Federal Post Card Application

REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)			
APPLICATION FOR STATE OF <u>Kansas</u>		COUNTY OF <u>Cherokee</u>	CITY OR TOWNSHIP OF <u>Columbus</u> §
I REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.			
1. APPLICANT INFORMATION (See instruction 1.)			
a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) <u>Smith, Walter, E.</u>		b. SEX <u>M</u>	c. RACE <u>Red, White & Blue Party</u>
d. DATE OF BIRTH <u>061173</u>	e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <u>354-16-7923</u>	f. OTHER IDENTIFICATION NO. (passport, ID card) <u>My parent's number in Cherokee county is 316/555-1211.</u>	
2. I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION (Do not leave this section blank. See instructions.)			
a. YEAR <u>I've never voted before.</u>		b. COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWNSHIP <u>I've never voted before.</u>	
3. VOTING RESIDENCE (For military, legal residence. For overseas civilians, last residence in U.S. IF USING RURAL ROUTE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)			
a. LAST DATE OF RESIDENCY <u>081595</u>		b. NUMBER AND STREET (Do not use Post Office Box) <u>8612 Main St.</u>	
c. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE <u>Columbus</u>		d. STATE <u>KS</u>	
e. COUNTY OR PARISH <u>Cherokee</u>		f. ZIP CODE (9-digit, if known) <u>66725-2354</u>	
4. MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO: (Mailing address where you want the ballot to be sent.)			
<u>39 Ave. Marceau, Apt. 25</u>			
<u>75116 Paris FRANCE</u>			
5. YOUR FAX NUMBER (If this application is faxed, include all international prefixes. See instructions.) <u>01133112234879</u>			
6. POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION (This information is required by most states to send you a ballot for primary elections. See Instructions.) <u>Red, White & Blue Party</u>			
7. REMARKS (Provide additional information which will assist local election officials in determining your eligibility to register and vote. See Instructions.) <u>My parent's number in Cherokee county is 316/555-1211.</u>			
8. AFFIRMATION BY APPLICATION X only one: a, b, c or d I swear/affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I am: (See Instructions) a. a member of uniformed services or merchant marine on active duty, or an eligible spouse or dependent. b. a United States citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S. c. a U.S. citizen overseas by virtue of employment or accompanying spouse or dependent. d. other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.			
e. I am a U.S. citizen, eligible to vote in the above jurisdiction, and subscribed to any required state/local oath or statement. f. I have not been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying offense or been adjudicated mentally incompetent, or if so, my voting rights have been reinstated. g. I am not registering, requesting a ballot, or voting in any other jurisdiction in the U.S. h. The information on this form is true and complete.			
i. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <u>Walter E. Smith</u>		j. DATE <u>011598</u>	
9. WITNESS/NOTARY ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE (If required by state law) DATE SIGNED			

The information contained herein is for official use only. Any unauthorized release of this information may be punishable by law.

While the November 1998 general election is almost a year away, now is the time to take the necessary steps to participate in elections next year. A look at the 1998 Election Calendar on page 3 of this newsletter will show that the primary season starts with the Texas primary on March 10, followed by the Illinois primary on March 17. All 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Guam and

the Virgin Islands will hold primaries between the months of March and October, leading up to the November 3 general election.

Citizens voting under the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* are eligible to participate in all primaries for Federal office and, in many cases, in primaries for statewide offices as well. But they need to start planning at least 60 days in advance of the election date.

Along with 35 U.S. Senate seats and 435 House of Representatives seats, 39 Governor-

ships will be determined in 1998.

A Federal Post Card Application (FPCA or SF-76), partially depicted above, is the first step in the absentee voting process for UOCAVA citizens. Under the UOCAVA, the FPCA is accepted by all the states and territories as a simultaneous request for registration and/or an absentee ballot. However, it is important to realize that state laws (not the UOCAVA) determine the information required on the FPCA as well as the deadline for submitting the form. As a result, accurate com-

pletion and timely submission of the FPCA are critical to ensuring your enfranchisement in 1998.

Always consult the 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guide* for state-by-state instructions on completing the form. Also, keep in mind that even if you submitted an FPCA for elections in 1996, or 1997 elections, the FPCA is valid for one calendar year. While you may have been permanently registered when you previously submitted your FPCA, you should submit a new FPCA (see **FPCA**, pg. 4)

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Ombudsman Service

The FVAP's Ombudsman Services is there to help you if you cannot resolve your voting concern locally. You can contact the service by regular mail, e-mail, fax or phone.

Toll-free phone numbers from 50 countries and all other contact information are listed below and at the bottom of this page.



In the U.S. 1-800-438-8683

Antigua 1-800-326-0220

Australia 0014-800-128509

Bahamas 180-995-09-20

Bahrain 800-621

Barbados 800-534-2104

Belgium 078-111-455

Bermuda 800-623-0077

Brazil 000-811-926-5585

Canada 800-995-0920

Chile 00-020-3071

Colombia 980-12-0896

Costa Rica 0-800-011-0125

Denmark 800-10-169

Dominican Rep. 800-751-7131

Finland 9800-156-284

France 0-800-900-156

Germany 013-081-9277

Greece 008-001-22-586

Hong Kong 800-6984

Hungary 00-800-11-158

Ireland 1-800-557-083

Israel 177-102-4012

Italy 1-678-72-444

Indonesia 00-800-1-923-3685

Japan 0031-11-2429

Liechtenstein

Luxembourg

Malaysia

1-155-4514

0-800-2499

800-2170

Mexico 95-800-010-1438

Monaco 0-59-00-156

Netherlands 06-022-2499

Neth. Antilles

001-800-753-0767

New Zealand

0-800-44-0799

Norway 800-12093

Panama 0083-28027-4197

Philippines 1-800-116-0009

Portugal 0501-8-13-035

San Marino 1-678-72-444

Singapore 800-1300-210

South Korea 0078-14-800-0203

Spain 900-93-1108

Sweden 020-793-503

Switzerland 155-4514

Taiwan 0080-10-3153

Thailand 001-800-1-1-923-6685

Trinidad & Tobago 1-800-934-7340

United Kingdom 0-800-895-7403

Uruguay 000-411-923-7985

Vatican City 1678-72-4444



Call the DoD VIC Toll-free from Overseas!

Now you can stay in touch with public officials, candidates and issues from your state toll-free from 49 overseas locations.

Contact the offices of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governors and State Chief Election Officials *at no cost to you* by using the numbers provided on this page.

Voting Assistance Officers can also contact the Voting Action Officer in the Department of State and the Uniformed Services on these numbers.

Regular commercial, DSN and domestic toll-free access on the numbers below is still available.

The VIC also provides recorded messages from elected officials and candidates.

Call Today!

703 - 693 - 6500

DSN 223 - 6500

Toll-free from Overseas

Happy Holidays to VIN subscribers everywhere!

Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month

- [] Review the 1998 Election Calendar on page 3 of this newsletter and become familiar with election dates in general. In addition to dates, the calendar provides important information on the offices being voted on next year.
- [] Encourage citizens to submit timely Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) requests for registration and absentee ballots. Many states require citizens to register at least 30 days before the election date. Dates and procedures vary so consult the 1998-99 *Voting Assistance Guide* for state-by-state details.
- [] The 1998-99 Voting Action Plan was disseminated to the Services in October 1997. Obtain a copy and become familiar with your Service's plan. An overseas civilian version of the plan can be obtained directly from the FVAP.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Voting Information News provides information for citizens and Voting Assistance Officers and is published monthly by the staff of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

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(703) 693-6500
DSN 223-6500



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<http://www.fvap.gov>

Vote Today for a Better Tomorrow.

Note: Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

1998 State Primary Calendar

State	State Primary Date	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	OFFICIALS TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION		
			FEDERAL		STATE
			U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	June 2	June 30	Yes	7	Yes
Alaska	August 25	—	Yes	1	Yes
American Samoa	—	—	—	—	—
Arizona	September 8	—	Yes	6	Yes
Arkansas	May 19	June 9	Yes	4	Yes
California	June 2	—	Yes	52	Yes
Colorado	August 11	—	Yes	6	Yes
Connecticut	September 15	—	Yes	6	Yes
Delaware	September 12	—	—	1	—
District of Columbia	September 15	—	—	1 Delegate	(Mayor)
Florida	September 1	October 1	Yes	23	Yes
Georgia	July 21	August 11	Yes	11	Yes
Guam	September 5	—	—	1	Yes
Hawaii	September 19	—	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 26	—	Yes	2	Yes
Illinois	March 17	—	Yes	20	Yes
Indiana	May 5	—	Yes	10	—
Iowa	June 2	—	Yes	5	Yes
Kansas	August 4	—	Yes	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 26	—	Yes	6	—
Louisiana	October 3	—	Yes	7	—
Maine	June 9	—	—	2	Yes
Maryland	September 15	—	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 15	—	—	10	Yes
Michigan	August 4	—	—	16	Yes
Minnesota	September 15	—	—	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 2	June 23	—	5	—
Missouri	August 4	—	Yes	9	—
Montana	June 2	—	—	1	—
Nebraska	May 12	—	—	3	Yes
Nevada	September 1	—	Yes	2	Yes
New Hampshire	September 8	—	Yes	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 2	—	Yes	13	—
New Mexico	June 2	—	—	3	Yes
New York	September 15	—	Yes	31	Yes
North Carolina	May 5	June 2	Yes	12	—
North Dakota	June 9	—	Yes	1	—
Ohio	May 5	—	Yes	19	Yes
Oklahoma	August 25	September 15	Yes	6	Yes
Oregon	May 19	—	Yes	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 19	—	Yes	21	Yes
Puerto Rico	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	September 15	—	—	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 9	June 23	Yes	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 2	June 16	Yes	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 6	—	—	9	Yes
Texas	March 10	April 14	—	30	Yes
Utah	June 23	—	Yes	3	Yes
Vermont	September 8	—	Yes	1	Yes
Virgin Islands	September 8	—	—	1	Yes
Virginia	June 9	—	—	11	—
Washington	September 15	—	Yes	9	—
West Virginia	May 12	—	—	3	—
Wisconsin	September 8	—	Yes	9	Yes

State Department: Office of American Citizens ServicesVoting Action Officer: Mr. Patrick Hegerty **tel:** (202) 647-6060 **tel FTS:** 8-647-4994, **fax:** (202) 647-6201**Service Voting Action Officers**Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532
E-mail: feazellt@hoffman-emh1.army.milDept. of the Navy: Lt. Stephanie Nordhoff **tel:** (703) 693-0816, **toll-free** (800) 368-5056 **tel DSN** 223-0816,
fax (703) 693-6471, **E-mail:** p662c2@bupers.navy.milDept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 652-7849, **toll-free** (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 487-7849,
DSN fax 487-5982, **Commercial fax** (210) 652-5982 **E-mail:** lowrancj@hq.afpc.af.milMarine Corps: GySgt Johnnie Jackson **tel:** (703) 696-2026 **tel DSN:** 426-2026, **fax:** (703) 696-2068, **fax DSN:** 426-2068
Internet: jacksonj@hq.usmc.mil **E-mail:** jackson@mhp@hqmc **ELMS:** [GMHPO3:HQHQMC]U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Reggie Sealey **tel:** (202) 267-2239, **fax:** (202) 267-4823
E-mail: rsealy@comdt.uscg.milAll of the above can be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP WEB Site <http://www.fvap.gov>

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

(FPCA, from pg. 1)

after January 1 to request ballots for '98 elections. As easy as completion of the FPCA may seem, in 1996, local election officials (LEOs) were unable to process many FPCAs for a variety of reasons: inadequate home address (cited as a problem by 66% of LEOs); inadequate mailing address (25%); failure to indicate party preference (19%); and illegibility (18%), among other reasons. What follows are item-by-item instructions for completing this all-important form:

TOP OF THE FORM

Fill in the blanks with your state/territory, county and city/town of voting residence.

Item 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

Print or type *legibly*. Insert only one character between each character-separation guide mark. Remember, legibility is the key.

A timely and accurate FPCA is one of the best ways to ensure your participation in 1998 elections.

Item 2: I LAST VOTED or PLACE OF LAST REGISTRATION

Do NOT leave this blank. If unknown, write "N/A" or "Unknown" or "I've never voted."

Item 3: VOTING RESIDENCE

A complete street address of where you actually lived is necessary for the LEO to place you in the proper voting precinct. Do not use a P.O. Box. If using a Rural Route, use Item 7 (Remarks) to indicate the specific location of the residence. For ex. "2 miles south of the intersection of Route 29 and I-35."

Item 4: MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOT TO:

Enter the complete mailing address where you wish to receive your absentee ballot. It must be different from Item 3. If you will have a new address by the time election materials will be sent to you, be sure to list the new address here.

Item 5: YOUR FAX NUMBER

If time constraints present a problem in meeting your state or

territory deadline for returning voting materials, and faxing of these materials is allowed, provide your complete fax number here. Some states and territories (such as Kansas in this example) also allow you to receive and/or return your ballot by fax. Refer to Chapter 3 of the *Guide* for details. All faxing must be done on (800) 368-8683, DSN 223-5527, or (703) 693-5527.

Item 6: POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION

In many states and territories, to vote in that state's or territory's primary election, you must specify your party affiliation. Otherwise, the LEO will send you a ballot for the general election only. In other states and territories, party affiliation is not mandatory. Again, you must refer to Chapter 3 of the *Voting Assistance Guide* for specific information concerning your state or territory. (Note that in this fictitious example, Mr. Smith is eligible to participate in the primary for the Red, White & Blue Party in Kansas).

Item 7: REMARKS

Provide any information which you feel will assist LEOs in providing your ballot. For example, if you are requesting your state's special write-in ballot, apply the gummed label provided in Chapter 3 of the *Guide*. It would be helpful if you list a name and telephone number of a local contact in this section in the event the LEO has questions concerning your application.

Item 8: AFFIRMATION BY APPLICANT

Place an "X" in only one block. You must sign at 8(i) and put a date in 8(j) since the FPCA cannot be processed without this information.

Item 9: OATH

Not all states and territories require an oath or a witness.

Always consult the *Guide* when completing the FPCA. The *Guide* also contains LEO addresses for sending the completed FPCA to your jurisdiction of voting residence.



Federal Voting Assistance Program
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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